

Serial No. 10/033,981
Amdt. Dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 24, 2004

Docket No. K-0384

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings, Abstract, specification, and claims 1-15 are amended, and claims 16-38 are added. The drawings, Abstract, and specification are amended for clarification purposes. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 2-3 and 6-13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection thereto and the rejection(s) thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-15 have been amended to overcome the objections and rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as set forth in the Office Action. However, for the reasons set forth below, claims 2-3 and 6-13 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

II. Informalities

The Office Action objects to claims 2-15, indicating these claims are not in proper dependent form. The amendments made to claims 2-15 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to claims 1-15 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-5, and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayama et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,104,204 (hereinafter "Hayama"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a heating part positioned on an upper portion of the holding part and configured to generate and to transfer heat directly to the semiconductor device when the semiconductor device is mounted in a test socket of the handler, and a

compliance part positioned on an upper portion of the heating part and configured to properly align the semiconductor device held by the holding part and the test socket. Hayama neither discloses nor suggests such features.

Hayama discloses a semiconductor device testing apparatus, including a box-like housing 70 mounted on a performance board PB, and IC sockets SK with a socket guide 35 mounted therein. A heater 36 provided within the socket guide 35 provides for heating of the inside of the housing 70. Guide members 63 mounted on moveable rods 60R pass through apertures 71 formed in the housing 70. ICs vacuum held at the distal end of the moveable rods 60R are lowered towards and fitted into the IC sockets SK as the moveable rods 60R are lowered through the apertures 71, and guide holes 63A of the guide member 63 are mated with guide pins 35A of the socket guide 35. The apertures 71 are then closed off by closing plates 72, and then sealed by closure members 64 mounted on the moveable rods 60R. Hayama teaches that this construction thermally insulates the IC sockets SK and socket guide 35 from the outside atmosphere.

Hayama discloses that the IC devices are held by the distal ends of moveable rods 60R, and that the heater 36 is separately mounted in the socket guide 35 to heat and maintain the entire interior of the housing 70 at an appropriate test temperature (see column 11, lines 21-27 and column 13, lines 31-39 of Hayama). Hayama does not disclose or suggest a heating part positioned on an upper portion of the holding part and configured to generate and to transfer

heat directly to the semiconductor device, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, the guide pins 35, which extend from the socket guide 35, and the guide holes 63A, which are formed in the guide member 63, are the only alignment feature taught by Hayama. Hayama does not disclose or suggest a compliance part positioned on an upper portion of the heating part, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, Hayama does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Hayama, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hayama should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 4-5 and 14-15, as well as objected to dependent claims 2-3 and 6-13 and newly added claims 16-21, are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

V. New Claims 22-38

New claims 22-38 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 22-38 also define over the applied prior art reference and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

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VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings include changes to Figures 3, 5, and 8A-8C. These sheets, which include Figures 3, 5, and 8A-8C replace the original sheets including Figures 3, 5, and 8A-8C. Figure 3 has been amended to show the placement of the load cell 35. Figures 5 and 8A-8C have been amended to remove an element number not referenced in the specification. No new matter is added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (4)
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (4)



FIG. 3

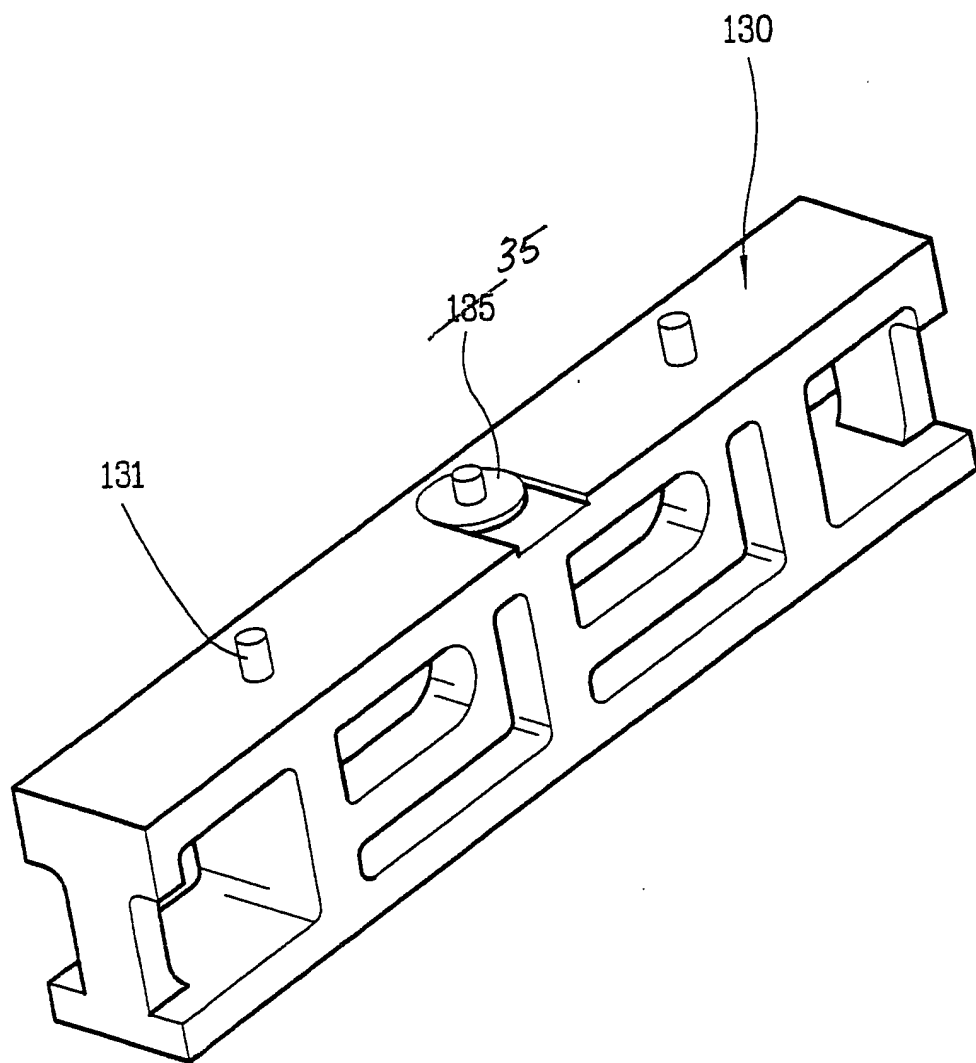


FIG. 5

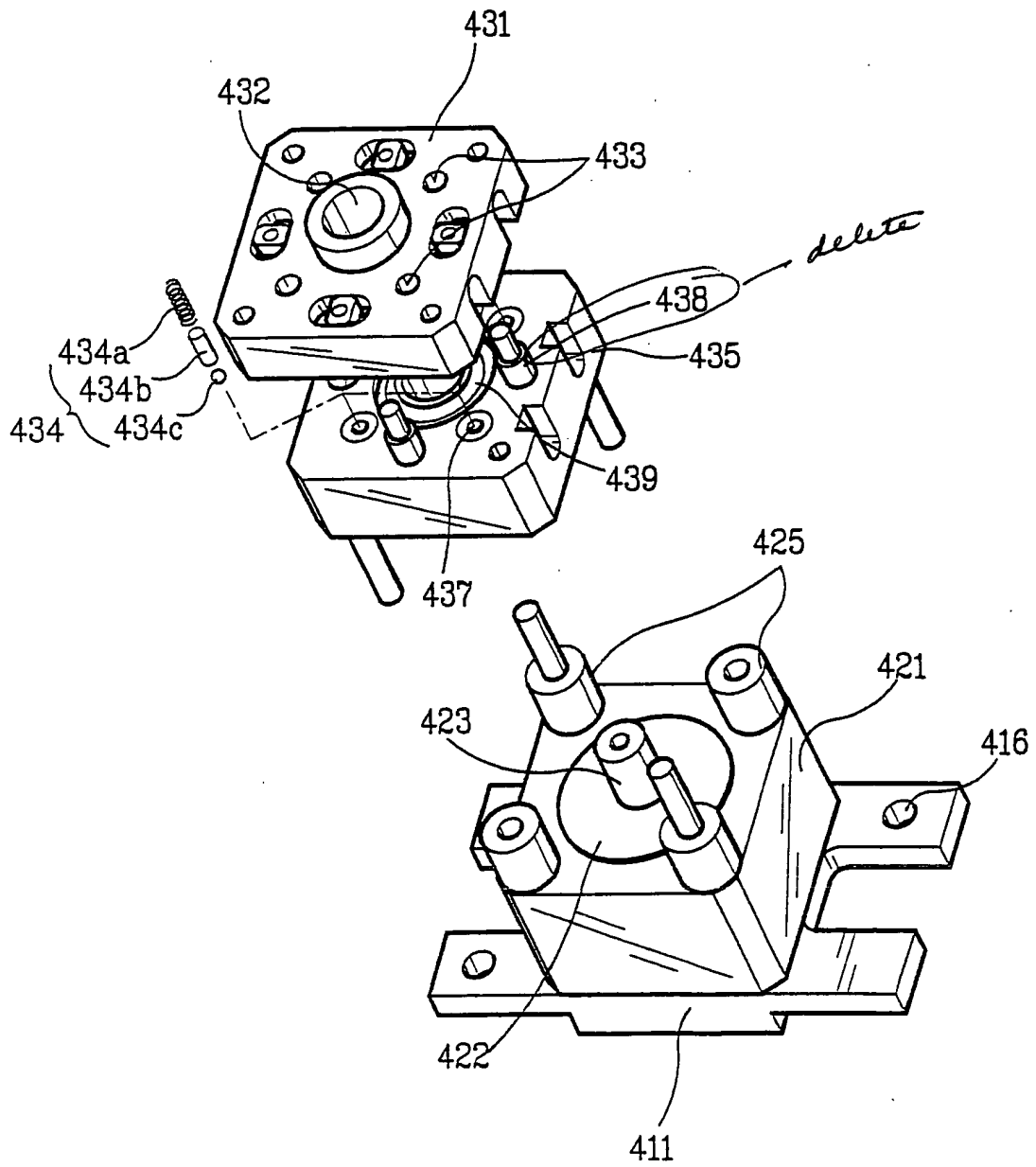


FIG. 8A

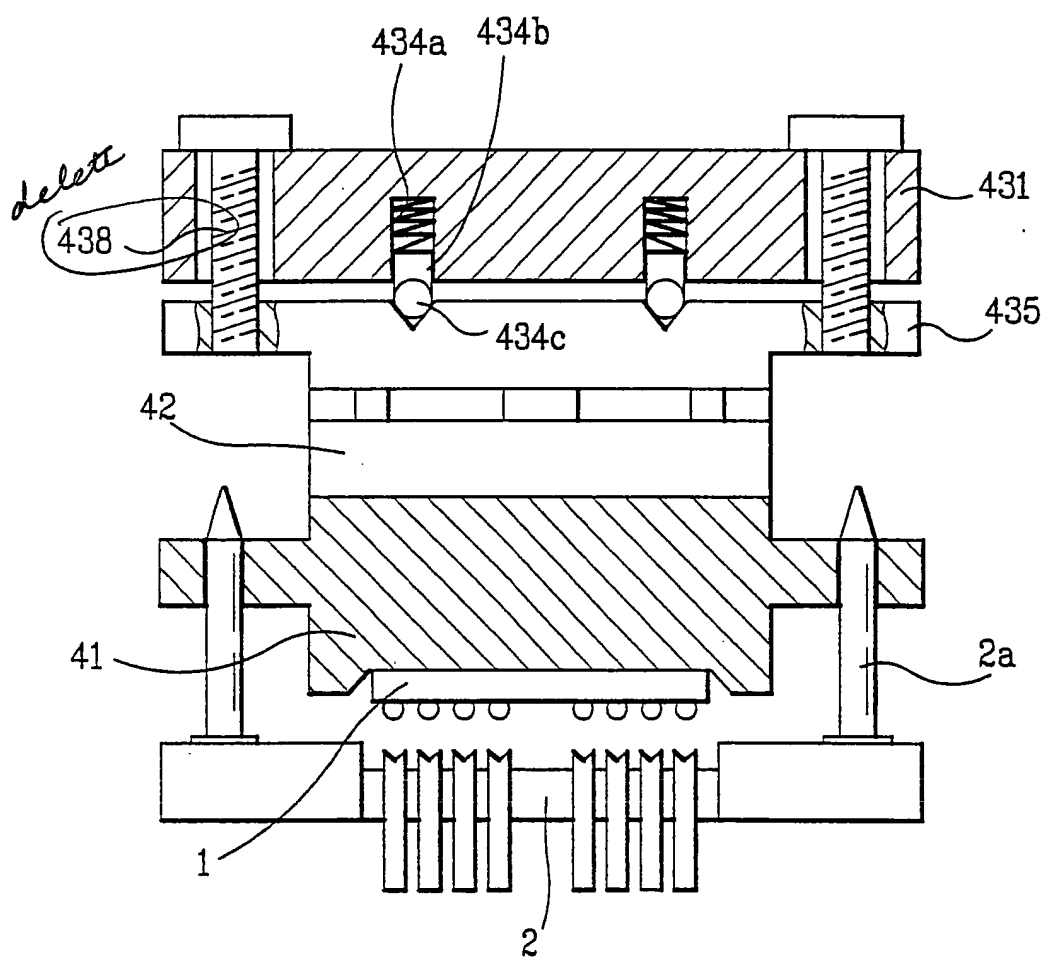


FIG. 8B

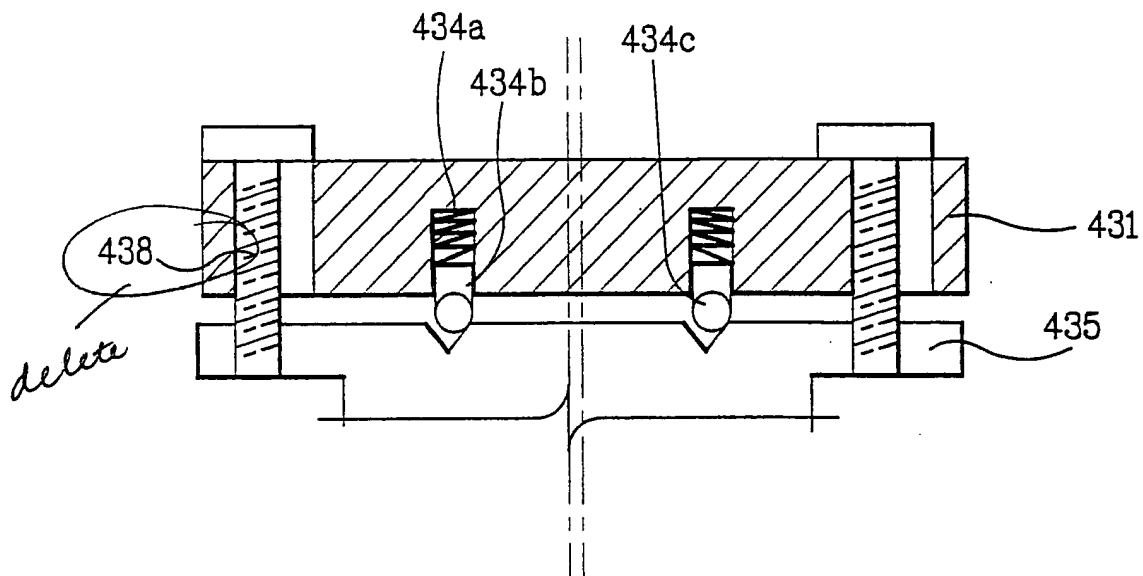


FIG. 8C

